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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GREGORY EDISON,)	1: 12-CV-02026-AWI - JLT
)	
Plaintiff,)	SCHEDULING ORDER (Fed. R. Civ. P. 16)
)	
v.)	Pleading Amendment Deadline: 4/7/2016
)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,)	Discovery Deadlines:
)	Initial Disclosures: 1/23/2017
Defendants.)	Non-Expert: 12/1/2017
)	Expert: 3/16/2018
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		Non-Dispositive Motion Deadlines:
		Filing: 3/30/2018
		Hearing: 4/27/2018
		Dispositive Motion Deadlines:
		Filing: 5/11/2018
		Hearing: 7/9/2018
		Settlement Conference:
		8/17/2018 at 9:30 a.m.
		510 19th Street, Bakersfield, CA
		Pre-Trial Conference:
		9/4/2018 at 10:00 a.m.
		Courtroom 2
		Trial: 11/6/2018 at 8:30 a.m.
		Courtroom 2
		Jury and Court trial: 5-7 days

1 **I. Date of Scheduling Conference**

2 January 9, 2016.

3 **II. Appearances of Counsel**

4 Brian Bush and Ian Wallach appeared on behalf of Plaintiff.

5 Kristina Gruenberg appeared on behalf of Defendant Management & Training Corporation.

6 Alyson Berg and Benjamin Hale appeared on behalf of the Government.

7 **III. Pleading Amendment Deadline**

8 Any requested pleading amendments are ordered to be filed, either through a stipulation or
9 motion to amend, no later than **April 7, 2016**.

10 **IV. Discovery Plan and Cut-Off Date**

11 The parties are ordered to exchange the initial disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)
12 on or before **January 23, 2017**.

13 The parties are ordered to complete all discovery pertaining to non-experts on or before
14 **December 1, 2017**, and all discovery pertaining to experts on or before **March 16, 2018**.

15 Plaintiff **SHALL** disclose all expert witnesses¹, in writing, on or before **December 15, 2017**;
16 and Defendant **SHALL** disclose all expert witnesses, in writing, no later than **January 19, 2018**. Any
17 rebuttal experts for Plaintiff **SHALL** be disclosed no later than **February 16, 2018**. The written
18 designation of retained and non-retained experts shall **be made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule**
19 **26(a)(2), (A), (B), and (C) and shall include all information required thereunder**. Failure to
20 designate experts in compliance with this order may result in the Court excluding the testimony or other
21 evidence offered through such experts that are not disclosed pursuant to this order.

22 The provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(4) and (5) shall apply to all discovery relating to experts
23 and their opinions. Experts must be fully prepared to be examined on all subjects and opinions
24 included in the designation. Failure to comply will result in the imposition of sanctions, which may
25 include striking the expert designation and preclusion of expert testimony.

26 The provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e) regarding a party's duty to timely supplement

27 _____
28 ¹ In the event an expert will offer opinions related to an independent medical or mental health evaluation, the
examination **SHALL** occur sufficiently in advance of the disclosure deadline so the expert's report fully details the
expert's opinions in this regard.

1 disclosures and responses to discovery requests will be strictly enforced.

2 **V. Pre-Trial Motion Schedule**

3 All non-dispositive pre-trial motions, including any discovery motions, shall be filed no later
4 than **March 30, 2018**, and heard on or before **April 27, 2018**. Non-dispositive motions are heard at
5 9:00 a.m., before the Honorable Jennifer L. Thurston, United States Magistrate Judge, at the United
6 States District Courthouse located at 510 19th Street, Bakersfield, California.

7 No written discovery motions shall be filed without the prior approval of the assigned
8 Magistrate Judge. A party with a discovery dispute must first confer with the opposing party in a good
9 faith effort to resolve by agreement the issues in dispute. If that good faith effort is unsuccessful, the
10 moving party promptly shall seek a telephonic hearing with all involved parties and the Magistrate
11 Judge. It shall be the obligation of the moving party to arrange and originate the conference call to the
12 court. To schedule this telephonic hearing, the parties are ordered to contact Courtroom Deputy Clerk,
13 Susan Hall at (661) 326-6620 or via email at SHall@caed.uscourts.gov. **Counsel must comply with**
14 **Local Rule 251 with respect to discovery disputes or the motion will be denied without prejudice**
15 **and dropped from calendar.**

16 In scheduling such motions, the Magistrate Judge may grant applications for an order shortening
17 time pursuant to Local Rule 144(e). However, if counsel does not obtain an order shortening time, the
18 notice of motion *must* comply with Local Rule 251.

19 Counsel may appear and argue non-dispositive motions via CourtCall, providing a written
20 request to so appear is made to the Magistrate Judge's Courtroom Clerk no later than five court days
21 before the noticed hearing date.

22 All dispositive pre-trial motions shall be filed no later than **May 11, 2018**, and heard no later
23 than **July 9, 2018**, in Courtroom 2 at 8:30 a.m. before the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii, United States
24 District Court Judge. In scheduling such motions, **counsel shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 and**
25 **Local Rules 230 and 260.**

26 **VI. Motions for Summary Judgment or Summary Adjudication**

27 **At least 21 days before** filing a motion for summary judgment or motion for summary
28 adjudication, the parties are **ORDERED** to meet, in person or by telephone, to confer about the issues to

1 be raised in the motion.

2 The purpose of the meeting shall be to: 1) avoid filing motions for summary judgment where a
3 question of fact exists; 2) determine whether the respondent agrees that the motion has merit in whole or
4 in part; 3) discuss whether issues can be resolved without the necessity of briefing; 4) narrow the issues
5 for review by the court; 5) explore the possibility of settlement before the parties incur the expense of
6 briefing a motion; and 6) to develop a joint statement of undisputed facts.

7 The moving party **SHALL** initiate the meeting and **SHALL** provide a complete, proposed
8 statement of undisputed facts **at least five days before** the conference. The finalized joint statement of
9 undisputed facts **SHALL** include all facts that the parties agree, for purposes of the motion, may be
10 deemed true. In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 260, the moving party shall file the joint
11 statement of undisputed facts.

12 In the notice of motion the moving party **SHALL** certify that the parties have met and conferred
13 as ordered above, or set forth a statement of good cause for the failure to meet and confer. **Failure to**
14 **comply may result in the motion being stricken.**

15 **VII. Pre-Trial Conference Date**

16 **September 4, 2018**, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 2 before Judge Ishii.

17 The parties are ordered to file a **Joint Pretrial Statement pursuant to Local Rule 281(a)(2).**
18 The parties are further directed to submit a digital copy of their pretrial statement in Word format,
19 directly to Judge Ishii's chambers, by email at AWIOrders@caed.uscourts.gov.

20 Counsels' attention is directed to **Rules 281 and 282 of the Local Rules** of Practice for the
21 Eastern District of California, as to the obligations of counsel in preparing for the pre-trial conference.
22 The Court will insist upon strict compliance with those rules. In addition to the matters set forth in the
23 Local Rules the Joint Pretrial Statement shall include a Joint Statement of the case to be used by the
24 Court to explain the nature of the case to the jury during voir dire.

25 **VIII. Trial Date**

26 **November 6, 2018**, at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom 2 before the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii, United
27 States District Court Judge.

28 A. This is both a jury and bench trial. The claims against the Government will be heard by

1 the Court, and the claims against defendant Management and Training Corporation tried by jury.

2 B. Counsels' Estimate of Trial Time: 5-7 days.

3 C. Counsels' attention is directed to Local Rules of Practice for the Eastern District of
4 California, Rule 285.

5 **IX. Settlement Conference**

6 A Settlement Conference is scheduled for **August 17, 2018** at 1:30 p.m., located at 510 19th
7 Street, Bakersfield, California. Notwithstanding the requirements of Local Rule 270(b), the settlement
8 conference will be conducted by Magistrate Judge Thurston. The Court deems the deviation from the
9 Local Rule to be appropriate and in the interests of the parties and justice and sound case management
10 based upon the location of the parties. **If any party prefers that the settlement conference be**
11 **conducted by a different judicial officer, that party is directed to notify the Court no later than 60**
12 **days in advance of the scheduled settlement conference** to allow sufficient time for another judicial
13 officer to be assigned to handle the conference.

14 Unless otherwise permitted in advance by the Court, **the attorneys who will try the case shall**
15 **appear** at the Settlement Conference **with the parties** and the person or persons having **full authority**
16 to negotiate and settle the case **on any terms**² at the conference. Consideration of settlement is a
17 serious matter that requires preparation prior to the settlement conference. Set forth below are the
18 procedures the Court will employ, absent good cause, in conducting the conference.

19 **At least 21 days before** the settlement conference, Plaintiff **SHALL** submit to Defendant via
20 fax or e-mail, a written itemization of damages and a meaningful³ settlement demand which includes a
21 brief explanation of why such a settlement is appropriate. Thereafter, **no later than 14 days before** the
22 settlement conference, Defendant **SHALL** respond, via fax or e-mail, with an acceptance of the offer or
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24 ² Insurance carriers, business organizations, and governmental bodies or agencies whose settlement agreements
25 are subject to approval by legislative bodies, executive committees, boards of directors or the like shall be represented by
26 a person or persons who occupy high executive positions in the party organization and who will be directly involved in
the process of approval of any settlement offers or agreements. To the extent possible the representative shall have the
authority, if he or she deems it appropriate, to settle the action on terms consistent with the opposing party's most recent
demand.

27 ³ "Meaningful" means that the offer is reasonably calculated to settle the case on terms acceptable to the offering
28 party. "Meaningful" does not include an offer which the offering party knows will not be acceptable to the other party. If,
however, the offering party is only willing to offer a settlement which it knows the other party will not accept, this should
trigger a recognition the case is not in a settlement posture and the parties should confer about continuing or vacating the
settlement conference via stipulation.

1 with a meaningful counteroffer, which includes a brief explanation of why such a settlement is
2 appropriate.

3 If settlement is not achieved, each party **SHALL** attach copies of their settlement offers to their
4 Confidential Settlement Conference Statement, as described below. Copies of these documents shall
5 not be filed on the court docket.

6 **CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

7 At least five court days prior to the Settlement Conference, the parties shall submit, directly to
8 Judge Thurston's chambers by e-mail to JLTOrders@caed.uscourts.gov, a Confidential Settlement
9 Conference Statement. The statement **should not be filed** with the Clerk of the Court **nor served on**
10 **any other party**, although the parties may file a Notice of Lodging of Settlement Conference
11 Statement. Each statement shall be clearly marked "confidential" with the date and time of the
12 Settlement Conference indicated prominently thereon.

13 The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall include the following:

- 14 A. A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- 15 B. A brief statement of the claims and defenses, i.e., statutory or other grounds upon which
16 the claims are founded; a forthright evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on
17 the claims and defenses; and a description of the major issues in dispute.
- 18 C. A summary of the proceedings to date.
- 19 D. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial and trial.
- 20 E. The relief sought.
- 21 F. The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history of
22 past settlement discussions, offers and demands.

23 **X. Requests for Bifurcation, Appointment of Special Master, or other**
24 **Techniques to Shorten Trial**

25 Not applicable at this time.

26 **XI. Related Matters Pending**

- 27 A. *Nuwintore v. United States, et al.*, Case No. 1:13-CV-00967 AWI-JLT
- 28 B. *Domingo v. Management & Training Corp., et al.*, Case No. 1:15-cv-00284 AWI-JLT

1 C. *Mercardo, et al. v. United States, et al.*, Case No. 1:13-CV-01535 AWI-JLT.

2 **XII. Compliance with Federal Procedure**

3 All counsel are expected to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
4 and the Local Rules of Practice of the Eastern District of California, and to keep abreast of any
5 amendments thereto. The Court must insist upon compliance with these Rules if it is to efficiently
6 handle its increasing case load, and sanctions will be imposed for failure to follow the Rules as
7 provided in both Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of Practice for the Eastern
8 District of California.

9 **XIII. Effect of this Order**

10 The foregoing order represents the best estimate of the court and counsel as to the agenda most
11 suitable to dispose of this case. The trial date reserved is specifically reserved for this case. If the
12 parties determine at any time that the schedule outlined in this order cannot be met, counsel are ordered
13 to notify the court immediately of that fact so that adjustments may be made, either by stipulation or by
14 subsequent status conference.

15 **The dates set in this Order are considered to be firm and will not be modified absent a**
16 **showing of good cause even if the request to modify is made by stipulation. Stipulations**
17 **extending the deadlines contained herein will not be considered unless they are accompanied by**
18 **affidavits or declarations, and where appropriate attached exhibits, which establish good cause**
19 **for granting the relief requested.**

20 Failure to comply with this order may result in the imposition of sanctions.

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22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Dated: January 10, 2017

/s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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